2009 HES Distinguished Alumna Award

Sue Ormond Singleton came to the Woman’s College of The University of North Carolina (now UNCG) from Dover, NC. While at the W.C., Sue was active in the Baptist Student Union, the Home Economics Club, the 4-H Club, and the Woman’s College Theater. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics, with a concentration in Teacher Education in 1959. After graduation, Sue worked for the Beaufort County, NC Extension Service – where she completed an internship during the summer prior to her graduation. She also went to Panama for seven months as part of the International 4-H Exchange Program. Sue continued her work after the Extension Service as a social worker for the Department of Public Welfare (now Department of Social Services) and later as a high school teacher. Sue even served for a time as nutrition director for a five-county region in eastern NC, where she implemented a new nutrition program for older adults. Sue completed her Master’s degree at Eastern Carolina University in 1983.

Sue has always been active in her local community – a member of the Beaufort County Home Economics Association, serving as Service Chairperson for the Beaufort County Cancer Society, working with the Beaufort County Heart Fund and Beaufort County Community Concert Series. She also served her alma mater as Secretary of the UNCG Alumni Association. Sue was an officer with the International Gideon Auxiliary and has been active in her local Southern Baptist Church. In 1992, she completed a second Master’s degree at ECU, in English as a Second Language – and in 1993 was sent by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to Cambodia. Sue was only the fifth Baptist missionary to arrive in Cambodia, a country that suffered terribly during the late 1970’s under the Khmer Rouge.

Sue taught English at government institutions in Phnom Penh, and then later in her home in the rural town of Kompong Thom. In 2005, Sue seized a unique opportunity – with funding provided by a generous couple from Rocky Mount, NC – to help begin a much-needed orphanage in Cambodia. Named the Shelter of Love Center and located on 24 acres seven miles from her home, the orphanage is currently home to 52 children and 6 sets of house parents. Sue’s dream is to one day take care of 100 children, and to that end a third group home was completed in May 2007.

The often-quoted motto of UNCG is “Service.” Sue Ormond Singleton, Class of 1959, lives that motto. For this reason, and many others, Sue was recognized in 2009 as the Distinguished Alumna of our School of Human Environmental Sciences. Sue received her award at her 50th class reunion in April.